

**IN THE CLAIMS**

This is a complete and current listing of the claims, marked with status identifiers in parentheses.

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) Can body, comprising (1) with a jacket-like closed can wall (2) extending around an axis of the can; and a base constructed on one end of the can wall (2), wherein at least in one sub-region of the base (3), an external base covering (7) is constructed in the form of a flat sheet material and is fixed- into position on an annular connection region (3b, 3b') of the can body (1), characterized in that, a decorative layer (4) is constructed on the exterior of the can wall (2) in the form of at least one paint layer and wherein the decorative layer extends at least to the outer edging of the base covering, preferably, however, as a decorative foil (4'), and extends at least up to the outer edging of the base covering (7).
2. (Currently Amended) Can body according to claim 1, characterized in that wherein the decorative layer (4) is somewhat overlapped by the base covering (7).
3. (Currently Amended) Can body according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that wherein at least one layer of the can wall (2) and the base (3) is made of metal and/or wherein the base covering (7) is at least partially made of metal, if necessary, however, of plastic, wherein the base covering (7) preferably has a layer thickness of at least 0.02 mm, especially, however, in the region from 0.08 to 0.8 mm, if need be from 0.2 to 0.6 mm.
4. (Currently Amended) Can body according to one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that wherein the can wall (2) and the base (3) are at least one of made from a single piece or are and joined to one another via a seam, if necessary a folded seam (18), preferably, however, a welded seam (16), especially a laser welded seam.
5. (Currently Amended) Can body according to at least one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that wherein at least one of a sealed connection (8), a latching connection (7f), or and a welded connection (17), especially with at least three laser welding points, is constructed between the base covering (7) and the can body (1).

5.

6. (Currently Amended) Can body according to one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that wherein the base covering (7) is fixed into position on the base (3), preferably, however, on one end region of the can wall (2) projecting over the base (3) that is in particular somewhat drawn in toward the axis of the can, wherein the transition from the can wall (2) to the base covering annular connection region (7) is constructed preferably in the form of a circular segment and in particular has a curvature radius in the range from 1 to 6 mm, preferably basically 3 mm.

7. (Currently Amended) Can body according to one of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that wherein the base covering (7) forms a base standing region, and wherein a standing can body (4) is only in contact with a support surface through the base covering (7).

8. (Currently Amended) Can body according to one of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that wherein the base covering (7) is constructed basically flat in a main region that is surrounded by the annular connection region (3b, 3b') and preferably includes a pressure region, especially with a bar code.

9. (Currently Amended) Can body according to one of claims 1 to 8, characterized in that wherein the base covering (7) includes a tear apart apparatus, if need be in the form of a weakened tear apart line and a strap, but especially device in the form of a first and a second covering subsurface (7c, 7d), wherein the first covering subsurface (7c) is joined with the base (3) via the seal connection (8) and the second covering subsurface (7d) is fixed separably into position on the first covering subsurface (7c).

10. (Currently Amended) Can body according to one of claims 1 to 9, characterized in that wherein a hollow space, especially for accommodating an advertising article (9), is constructed between the base covering (7) and the base (3), or in that the base covering (7) with a surface adapted to the shape of the base (3) lies directly on the base (3) and in particular is sprayed directly onto the base as an injection molded component.

11. (Currently Amended) Method for applying an external a base covering (7) in connection with the base (3) of a can body (4) with a can wall (2) that extends like a jacket around the axis of the can, and a base (3) constructed on one end of the can wall (2), wherein at least one layer (5) of the can wall (2) and

the wall (3) base is made of metal and a decorative layer is constructed on the exterior of the can wall in the form of at least one paint layer, characterized in that comprising:

fixing the base covering (7) is fixed into position in

the form of a flat sheet material into position on an annular connection region (3b, 3b') of the can body and wherein after said fixing, the decorative layer extends at least to the outer edging of the base covering (1).

12. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 11, characterized in that wherein, before the base covering (7) is fixed into place, the can wall (2) and the base (3) are joined to one another via a seam, if need be a folded seam (18), but preferably a welded seam (16), especially a laser welded seam, and the end region of the can wall (2) that projects over the base (3) is, if necessary, somewhat drawn in against the can axis.

13. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 11 or 12, characterized in that wherein, before the base covering (7) is fixed into position, a decorative foil (4') is arranged on the exterior of the can wall (2) and an end region of the decorative foil (4') is covered over by the base covering (7) when the base covering (7) is being fixed into position.

14. (Currently Amended) Device for applying an external base covering (7) on the a base (3) of a can body (1) that includes a closed can wall (2) that extends like a jacket around an axis of the can, and a base (3) that is constructed on the one end of the can wall and a decorative layer constructed on the exterior of the can wall in the form of at least one paint layer (2), with the device comprising:

a retaining apparatus (11, 12) for retaining the can wall (1), characterized in that wherein the retaining device (11, 12) holds the base (3) of a retained can body (1) free, and a position fixing apparatus makes the base covering (7) movable toward the base (3) and able to be fixed into position there, wherein after said fixing, the decorative layer extends at least to the outer edging of the base covering.

15. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 14, characterized in that wherein the position fixing apparatus comprises a feeding apparatus (13) for feeding a base covering (7) to the base (3) of a can body (1) held by the retaining apparatus, and includes at least one of a sealing apparatus (10) and/or, a pressing apparatus and/or, a welding device, especially a laser welding device.

15. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 14 or 15, characterized in that wherein the retaining device (11, 12) apparatus includes a centering apparatus (11) for accommodating the base (3) and a hold down apparatus (12), wherein the hold down apparatus (12), in interaction with the position fixing apparatus, makes a

16. desired contact force attainable between the base covering (7) and the annular connection region (3b, 3b') of the can body (1).

17. (New) Can body according to claim 1, wherein a decorative layer includes a decorative foil.

18. (New) Can body according to claim 1, wherein the base covering is at least partially made of metal.

19. (New) Can body according to claim 1, wherein the base covering is at least partially made of plastic.

20. (New) Can body according to claim 1, wherein the base covering has a layer thickness of at least 0.02 mm.

21. (New) Can body according to claim 1, wherein the base covering has a layer thickness in the region from 0.08 to 0.8 mm

22. (New) Can body according to claim 1, wherein the base covering has a layer thickness in the region from 0.2 to 0.6 mm.

23. (New) Can body according to claim 1, wherein the can wall and the base are joined to one another via a welded seam.

24. (New) Can body according to claim 1, wherein the can wall and the base are joined to one another via a laser welded seam.

25. (New) Can body according to claim 6, wherein the transition from the can wall to the annular connection region is constructed with a curvature radius in the range from 1 to 6 mm

26. (New) Can body according to claim 25, wherein the curvature radius is basically 3 mm.

27. (New) Can body according to claim 8, wherein the base covering includes an imprintable region.

28. (New) Can body according to claim 1, wherein a hollow space, for accommodating an advertising article, is constructed between the base covering and the base.

29. (New) Can body according to claim 1, wherein the base covering, with a surface adapted to the shape of the base, lies directly on the base.

30. (New) Can body according to claim 29, wherein the base covering is sprayed directly onto the base as an injection molded component.

31. (New) Method according to claim 12, wherein the can wall and the base are joined to one another via a welded seam.

32. (New) Method according to claim 12, wherein the can wall and the base are joined to one another via a laser welded seam.

33. (New) Device according to claim 15, wherein the retaining apparatus includes a centering apparatus for accommodating the base and a hold down apparatus, wherein the hold down apparatus, in interaction with the position fixing apparatus, makes a desired contact force attainable between the base covering and the annular connection region of the can body.

34. (New) Can body according to claim 8, wherein the base covering includes an imprintable region including a bar code.